

An Essay

Proposed

on

Amorrorhosa,

by

William M. Watkins,

of

Virginia.

8<sup>th</sup> L. WalnutPhiladelphia October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1834

On 3  
The disas-  
bodies and  
again. The  
at their  
the masses  
than foreign  
the, or ~~the~~  
small a  
In this clip  
that is, the  
those are  
not take  
mind at the  
H. B. B. B. B.  
the parts  
and, that

On Amenorrhoea or absence of the menses.

This disease is placed by Dr Cullen; under the class  
Local, and order, Episcleosis. He has also divided it into three  
species. 1<sup>st</sup> Emancip mensium, where the menses do not appear  
at their usual period. 2<sup>d</sup> Suppressive mensium, when after  
the menses have appeared, but from some other cause  
than pregnancy, they have ceased. 3<sup>d</sup> Amenorrhoea diffi-  
cilis, or ~~menstrua difficilis~~ menstrua difficilis when the flow is in too ✓  
small a quantity, and attended with pain.

In this dissertation, I shall treat, only of the two first;  
that is, Retention, and Suppression.

There are three different states, in which the uterus does  
not take on its specific action, when the patient has ar-  
rived at the proper age.

1<sup>st</sup> When there is no development, either of the uterus, or  
the parts which closely sympathize with it, at the pe-  
riod, that it is about to take on the action of secreting

the more  
substance  
afforded. B  
ings, that  
that by a  
lyr. compo  
might prop  
improvisi, b  
and by that  
my her oppo  
it, it then  
dian, the  
how, the p  
fatigued, co  
in the heart  
present, th  
as to be exp  
prospen. sta  
the causes



the menstrual fluid. In this case there should be no interference, unless the general health of the patient was affected. But if the friends of the patient should still urge, that something ought to be done, and it is found that by a noncompliance, they would apply to some persons who are unskilful about giving violent medicines, which might prove dangerous. In that case, it may be advisable to suppose, by giving blood pills colored with Rubeusant, and by that means, give nature an opportunity of fulfilling her office.

2<sup>d</sup> When the development is too slow. In this condition, the system is found in two different states. In one, the patient is subject to flushings of the face, violent fatigue, complaints of sickness at the stomach, vertigo, pain in the head, back, limbs &c. When these symptoms are present, the lowest and the other antipathesis he remains not to be employed, until the system is reduced to the proper standard. After the phlegmatic action has abated, and the increases should not appear, I would then use the

State of  
low symptoms  
during the  
most paucity  
with least of  
in the other  
of the last  
Lymphadenitis  
in symptoms  
It begins in  
the left of  
to arise in  
a bulky mass  
greenish color  
tation of the  
slight access  
suppurative,  
in the lower  
these symptoms

should prove abortive, so as gently to stimulate the uterus, by its close sympathy with the rectum. If these should fail in producing the desired effect, I would resort to some of the more powerfull Emmenagogues, as the same, such as *oleum* *vitæ* *et* *gambæ*, &c.

In the other state of the system, the circulation is the reverse of the last. It has been called *chlorosis*, by some authors, and *leucophlegmasia*, and *leucæmia*, by others. Some of the following symptoms, almost always, characterize this disease. It begins with an unpleasant sense of the health, soon constancy, loss of appetite, a feeling of debility, and weakness, dislike to active employment, and a desire for indigestible substances, a bloated, puffy, or pitted, or to these succeed, a pale, sallow, or greenish complexion, a pain of the head, and throbbing, palpitation of the heart, dyspnoea, hoarse, expiration from slight causes, syncope, symptoms of hysteria, a sense of suffocation, and lastly, swelling of the abdomen, and oedema of the lower extremities.

These symptoms have frequently been compressively, attributed

to the ab-  
pious, ac-  
having made  
to the heart  
vices are  
want for the  
which the  
Isabella  
and to a ship  
the general  
whole system  
miss from  
the fact, the  
visions. All  
it is saying  
to a dispen-  
saryment was  
that are in  
subject, at a

to the absence of the menses. Many ignorant, and inexperienced persons, acting on this supposition, have given stimulating and heating medicines, as emmenagogues with the greatest injury to the health of their patients.

Various are the theories, which have been broached to account for the appearance of Chlorosis, about the period, at which the menstrual discharge, usually makes its appearance.

Taberner has ascribed it, to a certain state of the ovaries, and to a defective communication of a due stimulus from the genital organs, on which the tone, and tension of the whole system depend. There is no doubt that it sometimes arises from these causes; how could we otherwise account for the fact, that the flow has been prohibited by the act of coition. Although this may sometimes be the case, yet I think, it is very rarely, owing to these causes; but, almost always to a disordered state of the chylific apparatus, and consequent congestion of the bowels.

As I am indebted, to Dr. Hamilton, for this view of the subject, I shall take the liberty of copying some of his

principal arguments  
purposes, and  
history of the  
system, and  
with, disordered  
position. These  
not at a person  
simplifying, p  
was also ston  
curves, the sup  
happy, and death  
both senses are  
the unimagined  
the friends are  
able to habilit  
their places, a  
I would increase  
you, and treat the  
page. Having

principal arguments in its favor. In his valuable work on  
 purgative medicines, he says, "the slightest attention to the  
 history of the disease, <sup>that is to say,</sup> causes, <sup>and</sup> precedents, and accompanies the other  
 symptoms. Costiveness induces the poorest colour of the  
 breath, disordered stomach, depressed appetite, and impaired  
 digestion. It first precludes a sufficient supply of nourish-  
 ment at a period of growth, when it is most wanted; hence  
 splenetic, laxity, flatulency, the nervous symptoms, wasting of the  
 muscular strength, languor, debility, the relaxation of the  
 nerves, the suspension of the other functions, serious affections,  
 dropsy, and death. He likewise says, "that the female and delicate  
 of both sexes are subject to Costiveness. Therefore the attention must  
 be to the consequent and not the antecedent of costiveness. The reason  
 that females are more subject to Costiveness, is, that they are more  
 liable to habitual constipation, both from the greater capacity  
 of their pelvis, and habits of life."

I would recommend the treatment of this case, with an emetic of  
 ipecac. and tart. ant. (if not contraindicated), to be followed by a  
 purge. Having evacuated the bowels, the usual course is to be done.

almost all is  
with Richard and  
vibrations of  
understanding the  
found out to the  
hatched. There is  
land by further  
found useful. I  
man a very good  
volunteer, by the  
propriety of the  
position, and for  
the skin, and all  
his words, he has  
more should for  
the interest to give  
as a proper state  
conquered to the  
and is the best



in almost all diseases, I would purge the patient daily, on every other day  
with Rhubarb, and Aloes. If there was great debility, I would prefer a  
combination of Aloes and sulphate of iron, or some other preparation of  
iron. According to the above, I would recommend to the patient to wear  
flannel next to the skin, and to take regular exercise, especially on  
horseback. Where it could be procured, the warm salt water bath, fol-  
lowed by frictions with the flesh brush, or flannel, would be  
found useful. I think that frictions with fine dry salt, would  
answer a very good purpose in this case. I have been led to this  
conclusion, by the fact, that frictions of this kind have the  
property of stimulating the skin to a due performance of its  
functions, and from the above pathway, that is known to exist between  
the skin, and sympathetic canal, I should infer that it would by  
this means, be likewise stimulated to healthy action. If these  
measures should fail, and there should appear to be a disposition in  
the uterus to perform its secretory action, and the system was  
in a proper state, I would give some of the milder emmenagogues,  
or gently to stimulate it. Of these, I should prefer the middle one ✓  
as it is the least irritating, and in my own practice, I have found it

any effects  
being well ad  
proportion of  
past incarnation  
is accompanying  
it. pure  
body of pure  
and of pure  
and should  
not should  
should be  
to a woman  
Christ's father  
times. He is  
waiting  
He is  
times is fully  
ation in con  
of it is

very effectual in relieving suppuration; I am hence led to believe it is very well adapted to this form of the disease.

Symptoms of Wither's pulmonaryis, as frequent cough, night sweats, great emaciation, with cough, and pains about the chest, frequent by accompanying this disease. The treatment under these circumstances is to give an emetic, apply a blister to the chest, and keep the hands open. Leeches have sometimes proved useful, as they break out of gum, &c. The diet should be light, and nourishing. If the cough should be troublesome the Squill or some other expectorant should be used. All the secondary means before mentioned, should likewise be employed. If they should fail, a removal to a warmer climate by a sea voyage would be advisable.

Chlorotic patients are frequently affected with a species of hæmaturia. This is to be treated with purgatives, and the other evacuating measures.

The 2<sup>d</sup> division of retention, which I have adopted is, when the uterus is fully developed, but it does not take on its proper action in consequence of hæmorrhæa, or some other disease. When it is caused by hæmorrhæa, the Tinct. of Castoreum will often

more this  
to appear  
to present  
matters, there  
it.

I have  
therefore, in  
put it on  
it, but from  
proportion, a  
house, as to  
better, however  
appears.

A difference  
and by the  
to this case, it  
had, and such  
highland of  
the instructions

remove this affection, and thus the uterus be brought into a combination to assume its healthy function. But if any other disease be present, we would first cure this, by its appropriate remedies, then we might treat the retention, as before directed.

I proceed to the consideration of the several species of Amenorrhoea, that is, Suppression of the menses. This disease consists in an interruption of the discharge, after it has been established, but from some other cause than pregnancy. For the sake of perspicuity, and convenience, I shall make two divisions of the disease, as to the time at which the suppression takes place, whether during the flow, or between the periods of its usual appearance.

1<sup>st</sup> Suppression that takes place during the flow is almost always induced by the application of cold, or violent affections of the mind. In this case, the symptoms are very severe, as great pain in the head, and back, with spasms of the stomach, and intestines, violent hysterical affections with most of the symptoms of fever. The indications are, to reduce febrile excitement, and calm irritation.

They may be  
large doses of  
help. If the  
I would use a  
thin the same  
followed by  
of Richmond a  
belonging to  
man to the ch  
to stop  
This may take  
the system. It  
during its flow  
will feel, and  
itself. The day  
frequent public  
This case is  
affection, by  
after regimens

They may be fulfilled by the use of the laurel, semicarpium, with large doses of laudanum, combined with opium, on the subject  
 Saliva. If the stomach is too irritable to retain the last planum,  
 I would use an oil opium pill, or give it by the rectum.

When the bowels are constipated, I would give an emetic, to be  
 followed by a purgation. I would prefer a combination  
 of Rhubarb and Stoe for reasons formerly mentioned.

Substituting to these, I would apply fomentations of lavender  
 near to the abdomen, and use the mustard bath to the feet.

2<sup>d</sup> Stop profusion of the menses between the periods.

This may take place either, in a phlogistic, or debilitated state of  
 the system. It is occasioned by all the causes which arrest it  
 during its flow, to which may be added intense cold, habitual  
 cold feet, and an inflammation of the substance of the uterus  
 itself. The symptoms of the phlogistic state are a full, hard  
 frequent pulse, hot skin, pain in the head, back, and loins.

This case is to be treated like any other inflammatory  
 affection, by bleeding, purging, and the rest of the antiphlo-  
 gistic regimen. After the system is reduced to its healthy

London, 1804  
of the application  
I have considered  
publication on  
by Dr. Clarke  
the information  
a strong interest  
there is a too great  
good comes to  
at that the whole  
include from  
information  
the general system  
time, yet there  
the part more  
of a chance as  
the more or  
exclusive, the  
by the case, 1804



standard, we are to recur to the use of the emmenagogue medicines of the application of which, I shall treat more fully, after I have considered the other state of the system. In a late publication on the diseases of women accompanied by discharges, by Dr. Clarke, I find, that he ascribes *menorrhoea* to a chronic inflammation of the substance of the uterus. I think, this is a very correct view of it in some cases, for we find that if there is a too great flow of blood to any gland of the body, that gland ceases to perform its functions. Therefore, as it is admitted that the uterus is a gland, and the menses a secretion, we must conclude from analogy, that if this viscus be in a state of inflammation, its secretion must be stopped. Now, although, the general system does not show any inflammatory symptoms, yet there are reasons to suppose, that they exist.

In post mortem examinations, we frequently find appearances of a chronic inflammatory action, that has existed, although there were no symptoms that would have led us to this conclusion, during the life of the patient. This is more or less the case, with almost every organ of the body, especially

the uterus. It  
in most cases of  
pregnancy will be  
the plan that is  
recommended  
of the system  
of management  
It is to them  
usually, that we

I shall not  
two of ability  
of longour, since  
my kind, palp  
out of the sys  
we find a great  
partly we are  
pregnancy  
have been long  
pregnancy, but  
the same it is

the uterus. From these considerations, I am led to believe, that in most cases of this disease, remedies addressed to the general system will be found to succeed much more frequently than the plan that is generally pursued: that of giving stimulating emmenagogues on all occasions, without any regard to the condition of the system. To this, may also be avoided the uncertainty of emmenagogues, of which practitioners so frequently complain. It is to their misapplication, and not to the inefficiency of the remedies, that we must look for their failures.

I shall next treat of this disease, when we have symptoms of abortion. We generally find the patient complaining of languor, sickness at the stomach, an aversion to exercise of any kind, palpitation of the heart, or standing a night, and most of the symptoms of dyspepsia. On examining the pulse we find a quick irritable pulse, the abdomen distended, and frequently we can not distinguish it from pregnancy. A remedy has been brought forward to distinguish this disease from pregnancy, but there is not any one diagnostic symptom. — Therefore it is recommended, to form an opinion from the

...tion of the  
the organs  
long above  
your treatment  
your next visit  
the symptoms  
be done by the  
point to be  
tion to the st  
I would prefer  
with those of  
some time, al  
treatment of  
sent to some  
directly on the  
indicates its  
I shall not  
the question  
sufficient p

direction of the patient, and by taking into consideration, all  
 the signs which characterize a state of pregnancy. After  
 having ascertained, that she is not pregnant, we generally begin  
 our treatment, by evacuating thoroughly the abdominal cavity.  
 Our next indications are to remove the state of obesity, and  
 the symptoms of dyspepsia, which accompany it. This is to  
 be done by the application of all those remedies, that are  
 found to be useful in that disease, and by particular atten-  
 tion to the alimentary canal. Together with these remedies,  
 I would purge almost daily, with the preparations of Aloe  
 with those of iron, or with Senna. I would use at the  
 same time, all the auxiliary means mentioned under the  
 treatment of Chlorosis. If these should fail, I would re-  
 sort to some of those medicines, that are thought to act, more  
 directly on the uterus. It has been disputed, whether any  
 medicines do act specifically on that organ. This is a point  
 I shall not attempt to determine, for even if I could solve  
 the question, it would be of no practical utility. It is  
 sufficient for me to know, that they act on it in some

any; while  
ally, shall be  
and modern  
The first sea  
the action of  
sensitive app  
by them, in  
captivity as  
it. The tale  
thought it to  
be done abo  
ance, and o  
is still a copy  
for one of it  
which I success  
a search over  
are expected  
recommended  
highly spoke

way; whether it is through the general system, or specifically, I shall leave to those, whose opportunities and arguments render them more capable of its solution.

The first medicine of this kind, that I shall mention, is the *Archæa Justiniana*, or *Stoebea*. This substance has had a various reputation, as, an emmenagogue. It was first advised by them, who thought very highly of it, but in his suspicion as to the properties of medicines, totally rejected it. The late Dr. Barton, against the use of it, and he thought it the best emmenagogue, he had ever used.

Dr. Davis also, bears testimony to its efficacy, both in substance, and secretion, when judiciously administered.

To satisfy myself of the efficacy of this remedy, I tried it in five cases of amenorrhœa of pretty long standing, in four of which I succeeded, by giving this medicine in doses of half a drachm several times a day, about the time that the menses were expected. The *polygala senega*, has been very highly recommended by Dr. Henthorne of this city, and it is very highly spoken of by our worthy professor of practice

in whom, the  
the accommo-  
ably. In the  
and I succeeded  
in instrumental  
I should succeed  
has given me  
has more from  
with, but from  
that is recommended  
in proportion to  
in physical aspect  
from it great  
the advocates as  
in sometimes  
and, too, as are  
in a fashion  
not one is at  
in the happen



than whom, there can be no higher authority.  
 He also recommends the sanguiferous sabina or sarsaparilla  
 very highly. In the case in which the Nodder  
 failed I succeeded completely, with the oil of  
 sarsaparilla continued for some time.

A possible remedy of Dr DeCass is, the Volatile Tincture  
 of Guaiacum. When he has administered it, he says  
 he has never found it to fail. I have not used it  
 myself, but from the high authority by which  
 it is recommended, I have no doubt of its efficacy,  
 when properly administered.

Dr Physick speaks very highly of the Helleborus  
 Niger. A great many other medicines have had  
 their advocates as emmenagogues, and no doubt they  
 have sometimes proved successful, when properly  
 used. Too, as in other classes of medicines, there has  
 been a fashion in the choice of emmenagogues, and  
 first one is at the head, then another, according  
 as they happen to be applied with judgment.

to this  
attended to,  
in proportion  
the number  
magn. of  
think me  
uncertain

In this disease the state of the system is to be attended to, as much as in any other infection, and in proportion, as we perceive these remedies with a due consideration to this circumstance, so will be our success. If practitioners would act on this principle, I think we should hear much less complaint of their uncertainty for the future.

Richard M. D.

of Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia

I have been thinking of you  
 very much lately and wondering  
 how you are getting on. I hope  
 you are well and happy. I am  
 still the same old man, but  
 I am getting on as well as I can.  
 I am still in the same place,  
 but I am getting on as well as I can.  
 I am still in the same place,  
 but I am getting on as well as I can.

I have been thinking of you  
 very much lately and wondering  
 how you are getting on. I hope  
 you are well and happy. I am  
 still the same old man, but  
 I am getting on as well as I can.  
 I am still in the same place,  
 but I am getting on as well as I can.  
 I am still in the same place,  
 but I am getting on as well as I can.